





performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records or being empty;

logging the search requests for which the search result is empty;

expanding the logged search requests;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm to the logged search requests, thereby grouping similar search requests together; and

communicating a group of search requests to a user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

10. (Currently amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the system permitting user expressions of interest in particular stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records;

logging the search requests for which a user has expressed interest in a selected digital media record;

expanding the logged search requests;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm to the logged search requests, thereby grouping similar search requests together;

communicating a group of search requests to a user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user placing the selected digital media record into an online shopping cart.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user purchasing rights to use the selected digital media record.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user placing the selected digital media record into an online projects folder or other work space.